

Subtraction notation using bar models introduction



1 Writing the remove — - and =

Recall removing with the bar — a whole of six, made of four and two. Remove the part four, and two is left. We can say it; now we will write it.

“Six remove four is two — we took the part four out of the whole. Let us write what we did.”

Introduce the subtraction sign, minus. It means remove a part. Place a minus card after the whole.

“This is the subtraction sign — minus. It means remove a part. Six minus four.”

Introduce the equals sign, already known from addition. It means is equal to. Place it before what is left.

“This is the equals sign — is equal to. Six minus four is equal to two.”

Read the whole sentence — $6 - 4 = 2$. Point as you read: the whole, remove a part, is equal to, what is left.

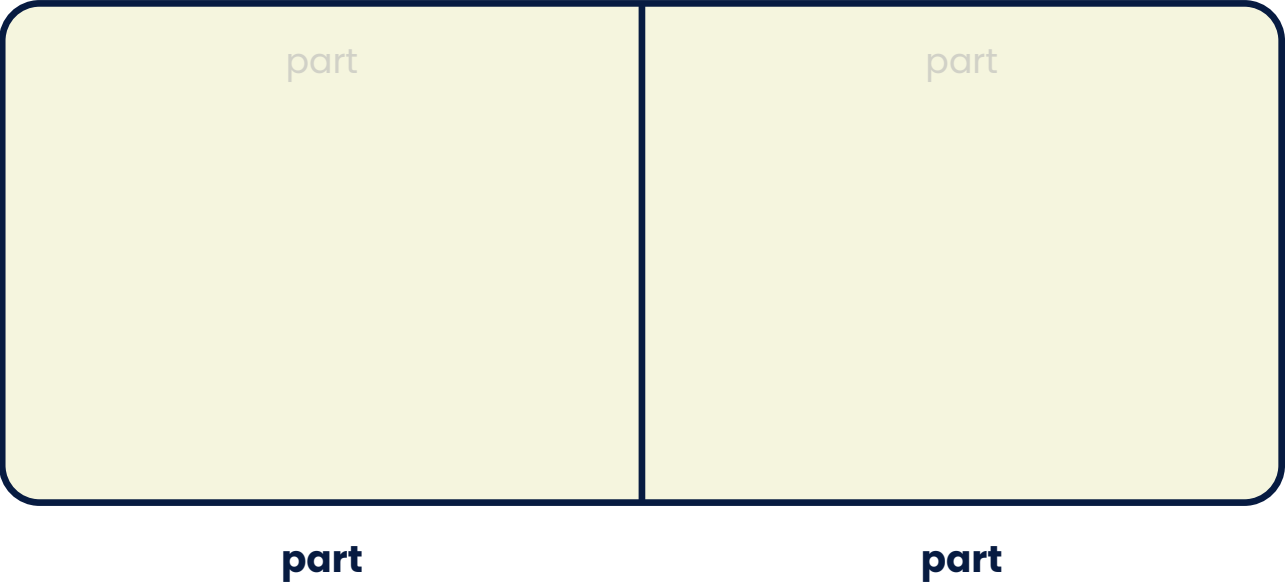
“Six minus four equals two. The whole is six; the part removed is four; two is left.”

Try new numbers to ten, and remove the other part instead — six minus four is two, and six minus two is four. Which part you remove changes what is left, unlike addition, where swapping the parts did not change the whole.

“Six minus four equals two. And six minus two equals four — a different part left each time. Which part we remove decides what stays.”

Subtraction notation mat — teacher demonstration

the whole



Number cards 0–10 — demonstration



0

1

2

3

4

5

6

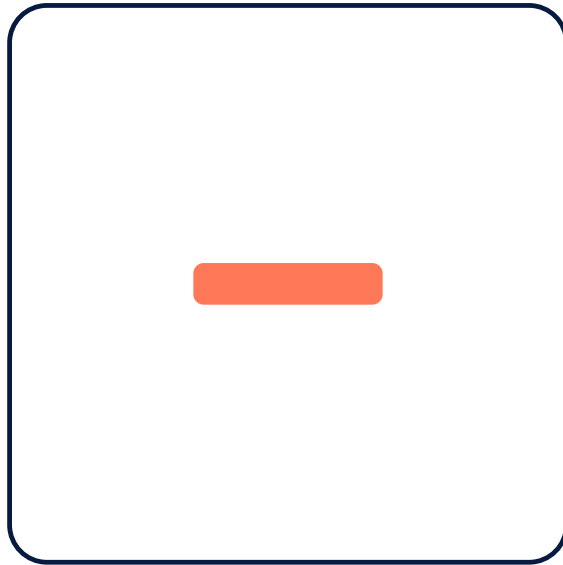
7

8

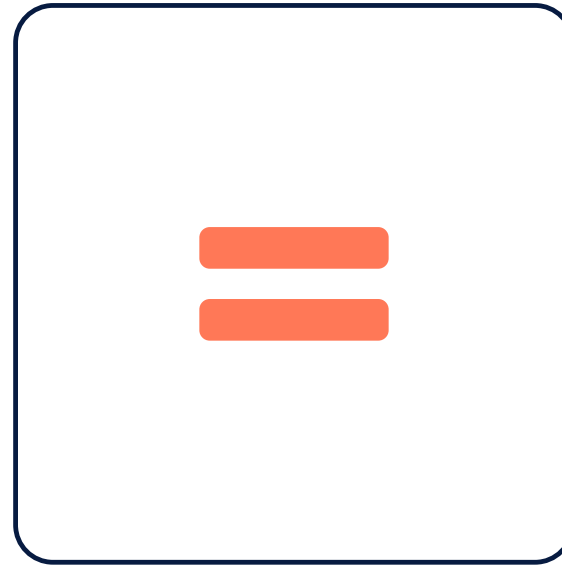
9

10

Subtraction and equals cards — demonstration



subtraction sign — remove



equals sign — is equal to